DECEMBER 2022 FREE TO ALL RESIDENTS

Capel St Mary Parish Council publication



Capel REPORTER

The Queen pledged to serve all of her people



Her Majesty's last official portrait taken for her Platinum Jubilee celebrations by photographer Ranald Mackechnie

The Queen honoured throughout her long reign the pledge she made, as the future Queen, on her 21st birthday in 1947. It was to devote her whole life to serving all her people. Her Coronation Oath in 1953 renewed the pledge. This *Capel Reporter* special issue reports how the pledge resonated with the people of Capel. How, as we mourned the death of Her Majesty, the pledge was remembered as directly personal to Capel people, their wider families and friends and, indeed, the whole village.

Throughout the newspaper's 20 pages are personal accounts written by residents of occasions when they were close to The Queen. The accounts cover a full range of being in or near Her Majesty's presence as she carried out her royal duties. They include standing in a crowd watching The Queen walk, ride or drive past, parading, carrying a standard, taking part in a Jubilee celebration, attending a charity reception for The Queen as patron, being invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, being at a presentation for a family member or being presented with an award. Just about every aspect of The Queen's public life is included in the accounts. *Capel Reporter* will be delivered to every home and business in the village. A specially-bound copy will be sent to His Majesty King Charles. Copies will go to Capel's Primary School, East Bergholt High School and the Library. There is another reason for this special issue of *Capel Reporter*. Suffolk Archives files away the changes and events in villages across the county as part of what is called preserving Tomorrow's History Today. As well as being read in the village today, *Capel Reporter* will be available for many years, perhaps hundreds ahead, for those who come after us in Capel and elsewhere.

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David Thompson, Editor

Capel had personal experience of her pledge

The girl wasn't born to be our Queen



The baby Elizabeth's parents, The Duke and Duchess of York



Princess Elizabeth at the Coronation of King George VI

What a wonderful Monarch she was

The baby delivered at 02:40 on 21 April 1926 was a Princess, a Royal Highness but she wasn't born to be The Queen. She was the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York, the younger brother of King Edward VIII.

Her birth was at 17 Bruton Street, Mayfair, the London home of her maternal grandparents, The Earl and Countess of Strathmore and Kinghorne. Across the country, at that time, babies were often born in grandparents' homes.



17 Bruton Street, London

The Princess was christened Elizabeth Alexandra Mary in Buckingham Palace's private chapel on 29 May. She was named after her mother, her paternal great-grandmother, Queen Alexandra, and paternal grandmother, Queen Mary.

Her early years were spent at 145 Piccadilly, the London house taken by her parents shortly after her birth, and six years later, at White Lodge in Richmond Park.



Griff Johns writes about the early life of The Queen

In 1930, Princess Elizabeth's sister, Princess Margaret Rose was born. The family of four had a close, quiet, happy and untroubled life.

It was to end suddenly in January 1936. It was the Year of Three Kings. On 5 January, King George V died. His eldest son, the Prince of Wales, became King Edward VIII. He abdicated on 11 December and Princess Elizabeth's father became King George VI.

The little Princess Elizabeth was heir to the throne and her life of service began.

In 1937, she joined the Girl Guides. In 1940, she made her first radio broadcast. In 1943, she became a Sea Ranger.

In 1945, with the Second World War still raging, Princess Elizabeth joined the Army - the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

Two years later, she married Prince Philip Mountbatten. Prince Charles, now King, was born in 1948.

In 1951, Princess Elizabeth took her first salute at Trooping the Colour ceremony on Horse Guards Parade, in London.

1952 was the Year of the Three Queens. Queen Mary was the widow of George V, Queen Elizabeth was the widow of George VI. Princess Elizabeth becomes Queen. She was crowned in 1953, Dawn of the Second Elizabethan ERA.



145 Piccadilly, London

Capel, mourns, honours and remembers our Queen Elizabeth II

Although we knew this sad day would one day be upon us, the passing of Her Majesty The Queen came as a shock to us all.

Being the first level of local government the Parish Council were expected to follow certain steps put in place by The Royal Palace to mark the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The National Mourning took us over a period of 10 days, from 8th September when all council and Government business was suspended as a mark of respect.

Immediately the Union Flag was put at Half-Mast on the Parish Green where it remained until 11am on Proclamation Day when it was raised to Full Mast for the reading of the Proclamation for his Majesty King Charles III then lowered to Half Mast until the end of the mourning period when it was then raised at 9am to Full Mast.

The Proclamation was read by our Town Crier, former Royal Marine Griff Johns.

The St Mary's Church bells tolled 96 times, one for each year of Her Majesty The Queen's life.

Councillor
Christine
Matthews



Chair
Capel St Mary
Parish Council

GOD SAVE THE KING

A wreath was laid on behalf of the Parish Council, alongside floral tributes placed by residents at the village War Memorial with a Book of Condolence at St Mary's Church and the Library enabling residents to express their deep sadness, which was felt throughout the whole community.

The churches of Capel St Mary came together in their grief with the Rev Sally Letman leading a Civic Service in the afternoon of Sunday, 18 September following Her Majesty's death.

During this period of mourning and reflection, like many, councillors followed the events that took place for the State Funeral in awe and admiration.

Following 70 years of service by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, during which she devoted her life to serving the country, we now move forward from the grief felt by all and enter a new era focusing our attention to that of King Charles III.

We look forward to celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday, 6th May 2023, when the village can join together in joyous celebration.

Proclamation of King Charles III





Queen with the baby Charles

Immediately at the start of his reign, King Charles repeated the pledge his mother had made when she was 21.

The pledge was to dedicate her life to the Service of her People. King Charles' renewal of the pledge is given in full on the Back Page.

There was a temptation to include in this royal edition of *Capel Reporter* the stories a number of readers have recounted of the then Prince of Wales.



School time for young Charles



Town Crier, former Royal Marine, Griff Johns, reads the Proclamation

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to call to His Mercy our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second of Blessed and Glorious Memory, by whose Decease the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is solely and rightfully come to The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George: We, therefore, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of this Realm and Members of the House of Commons, together with other members of Her late Majesty's Privy Council and representatives of the Realms and Territories, Aldermen and Citizens of London, and others, do now hereby with one voice and Consent of Tongue and Heart publish and proclaim that The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George is now, by the Death of our late Sovereign of Happy Memory, become our only lawful and rightful Liege Lord Charles the Third, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of His other Realms and Territories, King, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, to whom we do acknowledge all Faith and Obedience with humble Affection; beseeching God by whom Kings and Queens do reign to bless His Majesty with long and happy Years to reign over us. Given at Capel St Mary War Memorial Monument this Eleventh Day of September in the year of Our Lord twenty thousand and twenty-two.

GOD SAVE THE KING



Prince of Wales Investiture

They, and no doubt many others, have been left to the proposed Coronation issue of *Capel Reporter*.



Prince Charles Naval Officer

Meanwhile, a pictorial snap-shot taste of what could be in the Coronation issue.

Events which our residents have personally witnessed, seen on television or read about in newspaper and magazines.

Keep them in mind for retelling in Coronation Year.



King with His Queen Consort

Commemoration Service for Her Late Majesty Condolence Book at Church and Library



The Reverend Andrew Sankey, Capel Methodist Minister



The Reverend Sally Letman, St Mary's Parish Church



Mandy Hearne, Capel Catholic Community



Pastor Dave Owen, Capel Community Church

Worship at the War Memorial

A special commemoration service marking the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was held at Capel St Mary's War Memorial Monument on Sunday, 18 September.

Members of the three village churches, Anglian, Methodist, Community Church and Catholic community members worshipped together.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Sally Letman, Curate in charge, St Mary's Parish Church who, with the Reverend Andrew Sankey, Capel Methodist Church, Pastor Dave Owen, Capel Community Church and Mandy Hearne and Damien Hearne, Capel Catholic Community led the congregation with readings, prayers hymns, and the commendation of the Late Sovereign Queen Elizabeth into the hands of God.

The service ended with a blessing for King Charles III, the National Anthem and the words: To sing with heart and voice.

GOD SAVE THE KING



Damien Hearne, Capel Catholic Community

The Queen presents her Maundy Money to Paddy



Hille Peartree writes of her Coronation role

I can still remember my Mum telling me when I was just five years old that the King had died. We had a new Monarch, Queen Elizabeth. It felt quite exciting, and as I had had a lovely doll for Christmas, I decided to call her Elizabeth.

The following year, I was very excited to take part in a Coronation parade in Manningtree and Mistley. Mum cut up an old white sheet, made me a dress, and decorated it with red-and-white ribbons. It was such good fun.

From school, all the children had been given a special Coronation mug, which I still have, plus a pencil.

Hille Peartree went with Dad to Cathedral

My Dad, Thomas (Paddy) Gough, was surprised and delighted to receive a letter from the Royal Almonry Office, inviting him to be a recipient of the Maundy Money!

This was to take place at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, on 9 April 2009. Such an honour.

Before that, I went with him to the Cathedral on Saturday 7 March, for a Maundy Lecture to learn what would be involved.

This was followed by tea in the Athenaeum. A very interesting and informative afternoon.

On the morning of 9 April we were up early, ready to pick Dad up at 7.45am. It was a fine morning.

We parked, as instructed, at the Shire Hall car park, where husband Trevor left us, at 8.20am.

There we queued to go through security, before going on to a bus, to take us to the Cathedral.

Dad was taken to the Athenaeum, with the other recipients, to wait until 10am, when they would all be escorted together across to the Cathedral.

I had already found my seat, behind Dad's, and enjoyed watching all the final preparations of The Queen's visit.

It was so enjoyable watching the processions of dignitaries



coming in, on the TV screen near us.

Just before 11am, Yeomen of the Guard and six others carried in large silver trays, on which were all the red and white Maundy purses.

Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh followed them.

Eighty three men and 83 women received one of each purse, the number of the age of the monarch.

One purse contained small silver coins, 4p, 3p, 2p and 1p pieces, adding up to 83p.

The other purse contained a £5 coin, to commemorate 500 years since Henry VIII came to the throne, plus a 50 pence coin to commemorate 250 years of Kew Gardens.

The service was absolutely wonderful, with the choir singing Zadok the Priest so beautifully and then Prince Philip read one of the lessons, from Matthew 25, verses 31-46.

The washing of feet used to happen at this time, but not since 1730, though the Lord High Almoner and his assistants are still girded with linen towels in remembrance, and carry the traditional nosegays of sweet herbs.

The Queen distributed all the purses, with a little smile and a gentle handshake, to all the 83 men and women. It was a lovely ceremony.

After the service, we were all led through the cloisters into a marquee, where we had a very nice lunch of cottage pie, followed by apple pie.

We left at 2.15pm, to return to the car park, where we met Trevor, and drove home.

A wonderful day

Proclamation: How it was in Oz by teacher from Capel Andy Peartree

As I watched from my living room on Saturday 10 September I felt pride tinged with sadness at the Proclamation for King Charles III as it was being relayed live from the Royal Exchange in London.

The colour, the crowds, the silence, the noise, the patriotism, the full focus of all that attended.

The following day I ventured into the city to witness Adelaide's Proclamation. On the bus, I began reflecting on the events from the previous couple of days.

It had been our Friday morning when, at the gym, I realised the Queen had passed. I listened to Last Night of the Proms music on my earbuds as I carried on with my workout. Land of Hope and Glory came on - that hit the spot. Rule Britannia was next, again just what I needed to keep focused on the weights.

Other classical pieces did their job. Of course, the inevitable happened. 'John Bull's' anthem God Save the Queen began playing. As the first few bars hit my ears, so did a massive lump in my throat.

Later, in my classroom I changed my TV welcome screen to a more sombre-toned image of Buckingham Palace with the flag flown at half-mast.

At Junior Primary School's Friday assembly, an image of The Queen was displayed and the Principal, Randall Pearce, spoke about her.

Our three official flags, the Australian National Flag, the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag were flown at half-mast on the school's poles.

There was a service later at the State Parliament and a Book of Condolence was opened at Government House.



An Award by Her Majesty The Queen is an honour to be shared by the entire family, wherever they live.

The Capel family, Veronica McCreadie, husband John, their children and wider family members celebrated when her mother, Teresa Doonan, was awarded the MBE for work with mentally and physically disabled children and adults. The MBE was presented by Her Majesty The Queen at Holyrood House, Edinburgh, in 1997. The McCreadie family in Capel and elsewhere celebrated again when John's father, Francis Doonan, received a 100th Birthday Card from The Queen in 2013.



Pertinent questions from The Queen



Chris Yule had the answers at his OBE Investiture

The Queen had two very pertinent questions for me at the Investiture of my OBE at Buckingham Palace in 2006. The OBE award was for my service to the Crown Prosecution Service. I had led the Suffolk Office from 1986, and between 2000 and 2006 had been the joint director of a programme to procure and install a national computer system for the CPS to track cases, and to interface with other Criminal Justice Agencies. As she attached the OBE to my jacket, she asked about crime in Suffolk, and I was able to assure her that Suffolk was not as quiet on that front as many imagined. I told her about the installation of the computer system. She looked up sharply, and said, 'Does it still work?' Fortunately, I was able to assure her that, unlike many other Government systems, it did: and I understand it still does to this day.



'Anyone else for Buckingham Palace'

I have had the privilege of two invitations to Buckingham Palace. The first was for a Garden Party in 2005. Jean and I decided to travel up by train and get a taxi to the Palace. Shortly before we got to London, there had been a terrorist activity, and all the buses had been taken out of service. Everyone wanted a taxi and we were confronted by a huge queue. The taxi drivers were seeking to move as many people as possible, and calling people out of the queue if they were going in the same direction. When we got into the taxi the driver said 'where to' and when we told him, to our embarrassment, he called out loudly: 'Anyone else for Buckingham Palace?'. That day we saw the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh from a distance as they moved along the corridor opened in the crowd, but we were not close enough to greet her.



WHAT A PROUD DAY FOR HAZEL HOLE AS THE QUEEN PRESENTS HER MBE



THE letter arrived in early May 2002 from 10 Downing Street, advising me that the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, was minded to submit my name to The Queen with a recommendation that I be appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire in the Golden Jubilee Birthday Honours List.

What a surprise. My citation was for services to education and training and referred to specific projects and activity which I had undertaken for the Department for Education and Skills.

I was advised not to disclose the possible award except to immediate family and that there would be no further notification until the Birthday Honours List was published in June. I immediately confirmed my acceptance.

The Honours List was released to the media at noon on Friday 14 June with an embargo until 15 June. While travelling home on the Friday from a business meeting in Sheffield local radio and press telephoned me requesting advance interviews.

I duly received "a summons" to attend Buckingham Palace for the investiture on Tuesday 10 December. I was accompanied by my husband and daughter who were whisked off to seats in the ballroom while I was escorted to the long gallery to be received and briefed with others on procedures and protocol.

It was rather cold as there with just three or four small electric fires heating the gallery. Eventually, we were separated into groups for each award and lined up alphabetically in the corridor adjoining the ballroom.

When called I walked to the front of the raised dais where The Queen was standing and curtsied. She pinned on my MBE Award asking questions as she did so. She wanted to know where I worked, what precisely I did and how young people especially had benefited.

I was amazed at how well she was briefed with no notes or documents obvious. After about five minutes I then curtsied again and walked backwards away from the dais and out of the ballroom.

My award was transferred to the velvet-lined presentation box and it was time for photographs. Such a memorable and proud day which I treasure always.

When the Queen came to see me - well, not just me - in Her Royal London Hospital





ER

In the presence of Her Majesty The Queen and
His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
The Captain and Members of The Queen's Flight
request the pleasure of the company of

Mr & Mrs J Hill

at a Reception to celebrate the 50th Anniversary
of the formation of The King's Flight
on Thursday 26th June 1986 at 6.30 to 8 pm

R.S.V.P.
The Adjutant
The Queen's Flight
R.A.F. Benson, Oxon
OX9 6AA

Entrance by
Marlborough Road Door
Dress: Lounge Suit

Mo Hill was one of the patients selected to watch The Oueen leave London Hospital after a visit in 1990 to bestow on the hospital the title Royal. Mo, second from the right, was being treated for an unusual type of Cushings syndrome.

Jim Hill had served as a Senior Technician on HM The Queen's Flight transporting Her Majesty and Royal Family Members around the world. On leaving the RAF in 1974, he became a life member of The Queen's Flight Association.

In 1986, he and Mo were at an Association reception attended by Her Majesty, The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles and Princess Diana. He had a conversation with Prince Charles about life after the RAF. Mo complained to Prince Charles about how much tax they had to pay.



At The Queen's flight 50th Anniversary



Jim Hill, far right, was presented to Princess Alexandra when she flew with her husband Angus Ogilvy to Afghanistan in 1972.



THIRTEEN ENDURING HOURS OF HUMOUR AND OF PRIDE



MO AND JIM HILL TELL OF HOURS & HOURS & HOURS IN THE QUEUE FOR THE QUEEN'S LYING IN STATE

Mo Hill

'A wonderful journey'



Jim mentioned that he would like to pay his respects to Her Majesty the Queen at Westminster Hall and I also felt the same. We decided on the Friday morning we would go and at around 9.30am equipped with food and drink we were off.

After parking the car and catching the tube we arrived at the gate of Southwark Park where we were told to wait. After a little while we managed to get into the park and so the journey began.

I felt very excited that I was on my way although the time to go through all the corridors took at least two to three hours.

There was a lovely atmosphere and everybody was very jolly and friendly. We met two young ladies Sid and Jay who were sisters who were our companions throughout.

Once we left Southwark Park we followed the embankment of the River Thames along Thames Path. At this point walking through flats and houses, people had set up tables with tea and coffee for us.

One lady opened her house so you could use her toilet. *By this time we had conversed with so many people and it was really lovely how friendly and helpful everybody was.*

As we walked along the embankment we could see Tower Bridge in the distance and it seemed so near but indeed was a very long walk and it was several hours before we arrived at Tower Bridge where we were given our orange wrist bands for entry into the Hall of Westminster.

The daylight was beginning to fade and it started to turn chilly.

By this time there were several of us in the group, and we had made friends with a French lady married to an English husband, an oriental lady whose English husband wore a white cap which stood out in the crowd and helped us find our place in the queue quite regularly.

If you wanted a coffee or any beverage there were coffee shops etc. but you had to be quick because the queue could suddenly move and sometimes at quite a rate, which was where the man with the white cap was very useful.

Covid hearts.

We found that if one of the two sisters went with either Jim or I that worked perfectly leaving one of us in the queue.

Walking along we saw the Shakespeare Globe, with the very appropriate wording *"I would not wish any Companion in the World but you"* and passed the Bankside Gallery, and then an open air skate board park. We were at Blackfriars Bridge and we just wanted to reach Lambeth Bridge.

After Waterloo Bridge, suddenly we rounded a bend in the river and across the river we could see Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament. The time was approximately 10.30 and very dark.

Shortly after this we saw The National Covid Memorial Wall with the red hearts bearing messages from loved ones, during the early Covid epidemic.

The next bridge was Westminster and we were excited because after that was Lambeth. In the dim light we took a photo of our little group so we had a memory of each other.

To go over Lambeth Bridge from the embankment you have a set of steps to climb and despite feeling pretty tired and my legs not belonging to me, I think we all ran up these steps with great delight.

Once over the bridge we, walked along into the Victoria Tower gardens and thought: "not long now". We arrived at our destination at midnight approximately and we had to once again, queue for another hour and a half. At the end of this you had to dispose of any food you had. You could put any unopened sealed food into a bin and this would be distributed to a food bank.

We then had to go through security which was much more stringent than any airport security. You could not have any liquid at all in your belongings, no hand gel, no ball pens etc.

Once through walking down to the hall, the excitement mounts and everybody seems to have a spring in their step. Once in the hall you climb up and then you go across an area and you are shepherded down the stairs and suddenly there before you, a scene unbelievable.

The first thing I noticed was the bright Royal Standard over the coffin and then the bright uniforms of the guards. Unbelievable how they stood with their heads bowed and looked like dummies in a shop window.

The orb was much smaller than I imagined but it shone in the light, as did the sceptre and crown.

This was magic and I tried to curtsy, and bowed my head. As I walked away I had to keep turning back and looking. It did seem unreal that this was the Queen.

We started to walk to the exit when my ears heard the bang of a stick on the ground, notifying of the change of the guard. I asked the doorman if I could watch and he very kindly told me to walk back in. I cannot describe how fantastic they carried out this change of guard, every movement was so precise. The whole journey had been wonderful and something I will never forget.

Once we were all outside we all hugged each other and said our goodbyes. We then had to walk to Oxford Circus to get the tube. The two sisters joined us walking to Oxford Circus underground but we parted there and hugged as they were going the other way. We exchanged telephone numbers so we could check we all arrived home safely.

We caught the tube and when we sat down we wondered if we would be able to get up, but we did. Sid very kindly sent me the BBC Cam recording of the time we were in Westminster Hall.

Jim Hill

'Never to be forgotten'

When we reached Southwark Park the gates were closed, chained and there was a line of stewards across road. They said that the queue was closed for several hours.

As more and more people arrived, I noticed a small footpath gate unchained for normal park users. At that point, a column of people from another entrance gate was being led towards us and the proper queue.

I rushed to our small open gate with the cry: 'If they are going to the queue so are we. Come on. Mo'. I brushed the gate steward aside and followed by the throng behind us streamed through the gate and melted into the other queue.

It felt like the storming of the Bastille. We were soon in the first zig-zag of metal barriers. More queuing to the park exit and we were on our way for the long walk to Westminster Hall.

When we reached Tower Bridge we got out our wristbands to allow us into Westminster Hall and were herded into another zig-zag with a nice view of the Tower of London.

Mo has written about our travelling companions and I can honestly say that without them and our constant chatter I don't think any of us would have made it to the Lying-in-State.

As for the two sisters, Sid and Jay, as soon as Mo found out that they were on their own she went into Mother Hen mode. They reciprocated every time Mo left the queue one of them went with her to 'make sure she found her way back'.

Now our journey was becoming much more interesting passing HMS Belfast, Southwark Cathedral, the Golden Hind, Friday night riverside nightlife. Then London Bridge, the Millennium Bridge, and across the river the illuminated dome of St Paul's Cathedral.

Next, the Tate Modern, under Blackfriars Bridge, Waterloo Bridge and Hungerford, the Golden Jubilee Bridges and, suddenly, the sight of Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament with everyone saying: 'Not long now.' 'Almost there.' 'Only two bridges to go.' Then past the London Eye, Westminster Bridge and on to the Albert Embankment with its amazing Covid Memorial.

Then over Lambeth Bridge, into Victoria Park Gardens with the notorious final zig-zag in front of us. Once through the strictest security I had ever experienced we were ready to enter Westminster Hall at 1.30am on Saturday.

We had watched the Live Link Lying In State a few times and thought how I would approach it. Most people bowed, or, if veterans, saluted. Should I bow, or salute, or both? The sight of Her Majesty's coffin and the virtual complete silence completely overcame me with emotion.

Guided silently by Ushers, we made our way to the side of the coffin. I bowed as planned and Mo curtsied. But as I became upright I was overcome with an overwhelming urge to salute as well, which I did and Mo bowed her head again.

As we made our way to the exit I could see the Change of Guards formed up on the steps in the corner of the hall and I thought we may be lucky to see the changeover. I walked as slowly as I could and just through the exit heard the clunk, clunk of the Guard Commander striking his rod on the stone floor to signify the changeover.

I looked imploringly at the Usher, who waved us back in. Everyone stopped moving. We stood motionless in the silence until the changeover was complete.

We moved to the exit again at the end of an experience we can never, ever, repeat… one we will never forget.

If in advance we had known of all the hours and hours, would we have gone? YES

Presented to the Queen then Duke asked questions



Babergh Councillor Sue Carpendale writes...

When The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Ipswich on 17 July 2002 during her nation-wide Golden Jubilee celebrations, I was, as Chairman of Babergh District Council, standing in line with council chairmen, chief executives and people active in local communities who were to be presented to Her Majesty.

We were happy, and relaxed, looking forward to meeting the Oueen until a large black car slid quietly to a halt a few yards in front of us. The crowd fell silent, and a small figure in light green accompanied by the delightful Lord Belstead approached.

I remember the sudden shock of realising that this was The Queen and she was heading straight for me. I really don't remember our conversation, but she was just lovely, so gracious, very pretty, interested in what I said. She gave me one of those famous, spontaneous, wonderful smiles.

I watched in awe as The Queen worked her way around those to be presented: such a professional, an absolute trooper dedicated to her role. She made everyone feel valued.

Then I realised there was someone in a brown suit and Panama hat in the group behind her. It was The Duke of Edinburgh, a first surprise for me because for some reason I wasn't expecting him to be present.

There was a greater, and very pleasant surprise, for me. The Babergh Chairman's Chain of Office is a pretty thing - blue with sheaves of wheat, formerly the badge of an earlier district council. The Duke came closer and poked at the badge, keen to know exactly what it was all about.

The day ended with lunch in Her Majesty's presence in Bury St Edmunds. A wonderful day, wonderful memories and I still have, tucked away, the cream suit I wore, together with a rather splendid borrowed hat.

A year earlier, on 25 July, the first of my two years as Babergh Chairman, I was nominated with my husband Robin to be guests at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

There were upwards of 8,000 people at the Garden Party, crowding to see The Queen, wandering around the large gardens, sitting on the grass and queuing for tea.

Among guests we recognised were Norman Tebbit and his wife, who was in a wheel chair following her severe injuries in the Brighton bombing atrocity, John Knott and Patrick Mayhew. We had very pleasant chats with a charming young RAF officer and others in the tea queue.

The day was a very privileged and a unique experience much appreciated by both of us.

DELICIOUS - the finger sandwiches and Palace Blend tea

Sarah Smy's Garden Party

Having started my Girl Guiding journey at the age of seven by joining the Brownies, I spent many happy years involved in many activities provided by some fabulous Guiding Leaders.

Having had such great guidance I soon followed suit and became a Young Leader helping run Brownie sessions for local girls, and then became a fully warranted leader and running the local Unit.

Despite still being relatively young, I was only 25, I was very honoured to be put forward by my District Commissioner to attend the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in 1982

A formal invitation followed and my Mum and I were off shopping for an outfit.

I was in complete awe when we arrived at the Garden Party although rather nervous as it was shortly after the terrible London bombings.

We were ushered through and into the gardens. They were stunning.

The finger sandwiches were delicious and I remember listening to the brass band while enjoying a cup of Buckingham Palace's Own-Blend Tea.

We were able to walk round the gardens and then we gathered and made a walkway for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to walk along and greet some of the party goers.

Prince Charles and Camilla were also in attendance.

It was a very special day and one I shall cherish in my memories forever, even more so after the passing of The Queen.

Thunder storm at a Palace Garden Party soaked me



Former Babergh Councillor Kathy Pollard writes...

At the end of my term as Chairman of Suffolk County Council in 1996, I was invited, with a guest, to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

I took my mother-in-law, Elsie who was an ardent fan of Queen Elizabeth.

She had been very disappointed not to have been able to see The Queen the previous year when her son, Alan, had received an MBE at the Palace.

The sun blazed down on the morning of 26 July but rain was forecast. We travelled by train taking the opportunity to smarten ourselves up and don our hats at Liverpool Street Station before taking a taxi to Buckingham Palace.

A friend had advised us to take carrier bags for our hats in case it rained. We enjoyed the buffet and enjoyed spotting celebrities, Neil Kinnock, Sebastian Coe and Michael Portillo among them.

As the Queen began her walk through the lines of guests, it began to rain. This did not deter Her Majesty and a see-through umbrella was produced for her.

Then there was a thunderstorm and it poured… Some guests sheltered under the trees and two women were struck by lightning just 50 yards from the Queen.

They were treated by paramedics and taken to hospital where they were visited by Her Majesty. Both women were able to go home after an overnight stay.

We had taken shelter in the refreshment marquee and were then ushered through the Palace to the street.

Rain was bouncing off the pavements and we were drenched.

All the taxis were busy and a friendly police officer advised us to go to the pub opposite the nearby Army Barracks until the rain stopped.

We sat with our glasses of wine while our clothes steamed!

A memorable day for me and a great story for Elsie to relate to her friends.

The Queen's Wreath and letters to Capel





BUCKINGHAM PALACE

12th October, 2016.

Dear Councillor Thompson,

The Queen has asked me to convey her thanks to the Chairman, Members and Clerk of Capel St. Mary Parish Council, together with the people of Capel St. Mary, for the thoughtful book of messages and photographs on the occasion of Her Majesty's ninetieth birthday.

The Queen much appreciated your kind words and was interested to learn of the celebrations held in the local area to mark her birthday. Her Majesty, in return, has asked me to send her warm good wishes to you and all concerned.

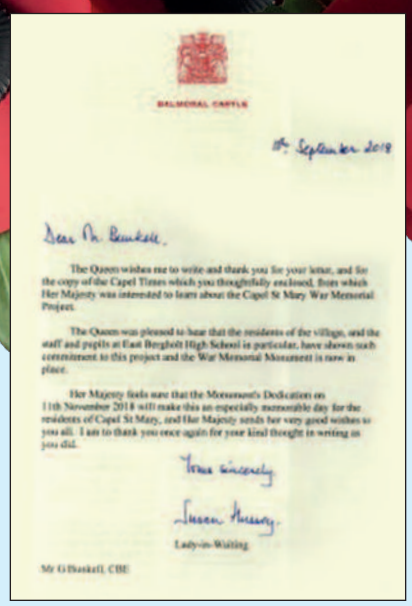
Yours sincerely,

Christopher Sandman

Christopher Sandman
Chief Clerk to The Queen

Councillor David Thompson.

The Queen conveying her thanks to the Chairman, Members and Clerk of Capel St Mary Parish Council, together with the people of Capel St Mary, for the thoughtful book of messages and phbotographs on the occasion of Her Majesty's ninetieth birthday… Her Majesty sends her very good wishes to you all.



BALMORAL CASTLE

8th September 2018

Dear Mr Bankell,

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for your letter, and for the copy of the Capel Times which you thoughtfully enclosed, from which Her Majesty was interested to learn about the Capel St Mary War Memorial Project.

The Queen was pleased to hear that the residents of the village, and the staff and pupils at East Bergholt High School in particular, have shown such commitment to this project and the War Memorial Monument is now in place.

Her Majesty feels sure that the Monument's Dedication on 11th November 2018 will make this an especially memorable day for the residents of Capel St Mary, and Her Majesty sends her very good wishes to you all. I am to thank you once again for your kind thought in writing as you did.

Yours sincerely

Susan Hussey

Lady-in-Waiting

Mr G Bankell, CBE

The Queen wishes me to thank you for your letter, and for the copy of Capel Times which you thoughtfully enclosed, from which Her Majesty was interested to learn about the Capel St Mary War Memorial Project…Her Majesty sends her very good wishes to you all.



WINDSOR CASTLE

17th June 2021

Dear Mr Rogers

The Queen wishes me to thank you for your letter with which you enclosed a presentation book containing a special newspaper published to mark the celebrations for the 75th anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day held in Capel St Mary, Suffolk, and I apologise that, owing to the large number of messages received in recent months it has not been possible to reply to you before now.

Her Majesty was interested to see how these occasions were marked in the village and sends you, and all involved with these events, her good wishes and I am to thank you, once again, for your letter.

Yours Sincerely

Harriet Wentworth

Lady-in-Waiting

Mr B Rogers

The Queen wishes me to thank you for your letter with which you enclosed a presentation book containing a special newspaper published to mark the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of VE DAY and VJ DAY held in Capel St Mary, Suffolk. Her Majesty…sends you and all involved with these events, her good wishes.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDIED QUEEN'S LIFE, ROLE AND SACRIFICE FOR US

Prefects SADIE and LILY write

During the 12 days of national mourning of our late Monarch Queen Elizabeth II, East Bergholt High School made sure to remember and pay our respects to The Queen's honourable reign of 70 years as Head of State and Leader of the Commonwealth. We believe the death of the Queen really affected some of the students at East Bergholt High School - she is the only leader we have known in our lifetime, and a figure of constant comfort.



However, we were all educated and reassured during the period of mourning by dedicating one of our Personal Social Health Education lessons to her across the school. Within this PSHE lesson, we talked through a presentation where we saw The Queen from every aspect of her role. In addition to this, each year group were presented with an assembly which informed us of all The Queen's sacrifices for our country and defined all her accomplishments: for example, her dedication and work as a mechanic in World War II.

One of our physics teachers, Mr Mark Wilshaw, thought it was really important for us to see images from The Queen's childhood. He created a video of many pictures of the Queen from her youth so we could compare how similar we all really are! Throughout the week, we also showed our respect by having pictures of The Queen up on our information boards, so we were regularly reminded of the dedication she had shown our country and the Commonwealth.

WE SAW DAD RECEIVE HIS MBE



Parish Councillor Sue Thomas writes

The Investiture by The Queen of my Dad's MBE was at Buckingham Palace. My Mum, sister and I went to see Dad, William Elliott, receive his award. It was for Services to the Community and Children's Sport in East Ham, London. Dad told The Queen that he had once met her father, King George VI. At the Investiture, we bumped into the then Deputy Chief Constable of Suffolk, John Cullum, who had been awarded the Queen's Police Medal. I knew John because at the time I was a member of the Police Authority.

Also a few years ago, as a member of Suffolk County Council, I received an invitation to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. I took as my guest my younger daughter who was about 18.

We saw The Queen and Prince Philip. The Queen walked by where we were standing. She stopped to talk to some people but not us, because there were the people in front of us. We wandered around part of the garden and enjoyed the Palace's special sandwiches and ice cream.



Cadet Force on parade for Queen

Bill Dimond writes

On the occasion of the visit of The Queen to Ipswich on her Silver Jubilee Tour the three Cadet Forces from Ipswich and the surrounding local area were tasked with providing Route Markers in and around Ipswich Airport, yes back then Ipswich did have an airport.

During the rehearsals for the event the organisers of the event decided that it would be a good idea if all the Cadets who held the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award were used to line the Red Carpet from the aircraft steps to the Terminal Building.

Therefore, on the day I was lucky enough to be one of the Cadets lining the Red Carpet from the steps of the HS748 from the Royal Flight to the Terminal Building. This of course meant that those Cadets were the first to be seen by the Royal Party before any of the welcoming Local Dignitaries.

This may have been the shortest leg of the visit, but it caused havoc with the timings as the Royal Party stopped and asked questions of all the award holders.



I'm proud to have served The Queen

Tony Gulliver was an RAF Senior Aircraftsman Air Frame Mechanic at the height of the Cold War.

He maintained nuclear bombers: Vulcan, Canberra, Victor Valiant, which were ready to take off in four minutes 24 hours-a -day from detachments across Africa, Asia, Arabia and Europe.

He writes: All that time I was working for The Queen. I was proud to have served her. The Queen was respected all over the world.

That girl had to lose a normal life for the sake of the nation. She will never be forgotten.

My 20 years of

THE QUEEN MADE EVERYBODY SHE MET FEEL SPECIAL

Group Captain Gary Bunkell CBE writes

The affection that all members of the UK's Armed Forces felt for the Late Queen was immense. As overall Commander in Chief, she occupied a pivotal position in the minds of the personnel. They are made aware of this at the very start of the careers when they enlist or are commissioned into the armed forces. They swear an oath of allegiance to the Monarch as the head of the armed forces.

That process does not automatically give rise to the level of affection in which the Late Queen was held. That arises from the example of leadership that she set and the concern she felt for her personnel. She herself had served as had so many members of her family so she understood as well as anybody the burdens and glories that service life offers.

The Armed Forces owed her a very real debt, and they went some way to repaying that in the flawless arrangements for her funeral. An outstanding performance by all participants at every rank level. The guardsmen who carried her coffin into St George's Chapel Windsor had journeyed back at short notice from operations. The flight of stairs that they carried her up is daunting in any event but must have been practised repeatedly in the run up to the day. Huge pressure on such young people whilst the eyes of the world were upon them.



Her Majesty held many specific appointments within the armed forces and one of which was Air Commodore in Chief of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, my service. She was appointed in 1953 and retained the role until her death.

Although the Royal Auxiliary Air Force was just a small element of her immense workload, she still found time to attend events when asked. As an Aide de Camp to her from 2007 to 2015 I met her on several occasions and I know that her interest in the force and the wellbeing of its personnel was genuine and sincere. Those whose lives she touched were made to feel special. In a world that is at times rather shallow and superficial these encounters leave a lasting impression.

HER GENUINE INTEREST HAS A LASTING IMPRESSION

close encounters with Her Majesty











WHEN AND WHY I MET THE QUEEN

Group Captain Gary Bunkell CBE writes

Top left: A visit by Her Majesty to RAF Marham in 2000, in her capacity as the Station's Honorary Air Commodore. She met Squadron Commanders who briefed her on the activities of their unit and introduced Squadron personnel. I was presented.

Top right: The Ballroom at Buckingham Palace in March 2015, I was appointed a military Commander of the British Empire by Her Majesty.

Centre left: The Royal Auxiliary Air Force's 80th Anniversary in 2004 with a reception at the Royal Air Force Club in Piccadilly, London. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh tells a joke as the picture is about to be taken so lots of smiling faces, including Her Majesty. I am far right, front.

Centre right: In 2012, Her Majesty presented the Royal Auxiliary Air Force with a new Colour and two of our Squadrons with Standards. Colours are very symbolic, constituting a unit's honour and representing its devotion to duty.

Bottom: Her Majesty and Squadron Commanders following the presentation of the Sovereign's Colour in 2012. I am front row, third one in. Next to me is Air-Vice Marshal Lord Beaverbrook. His father was a Spitfire pilot and his grandfather was Head of Aircraft Production during World War Two.

Inserted in the main story to the left: A painting of the Sovereign's Colour Presentation commissioned by Air Vice-Marshal Lord Beaverbrook. It was painted by Stuart Brown and the original hangs in the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly. I was the Parade Commander and I am far right at the rear.

Three times a great privilege

Penny Thompson writes

I have been very privileged - and very lucky - to have seen fairly closely Her Majesty carrying out three of her many different Royal public duties in the 14 years between 1967 and 1981. One was very formal, one was very scary, one was very refreshing.

INSIDE PALACE GATES

My closest view of The Queen, together with Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, was while standing inside Buckingham Palace Gates with 12 pupils and another teacher from a girls' school in a deprived area of London.

The occasion was The Queen and Royal Family members leaving in open carriages for Trooping the Colour on Horse Guards parade in 1967. Every year, a number of schools were chosen by ballot for this special visit. When The Queen's parade had marched, driven or rode through the gates, we were taken through to the palace courtyard before going outside for lunch nearby. Then it was back inside the gates to watch The Queen and her parade return,

It was a very hot day and while we were waiting one of my girls, and a Guardsman, collapsed . The girl was taken to hospital by ambulance. The Guardsman was left on the ground where he fell. A few days later, some of the girls came to my house to relive their happy, exciting and very special day.



SHOTS AT THE QUEEN

As The Queen rode immediately past the crowd my family and I were among on The Mall for the 1981 Trooping the Colour ceremony when six shots rang out. The Queen's horse was startled. The Duke of Edinburgh rode swiftly to her and the 17-year-old boy who had fired what were blanks was seized by a Guardsman and a policeman.



GLITTERING MONARCH

The Queen attended a YMCA festival in Harrogate in 1982. I was there because my former husband had just been appointed director of the YMCA in BAOR. There was a clear view of The Queen, and the performing young would-be show business stars, from my seat in the audience.

BROWNIE SIXER CARRYING THE FLAG

Joanna Green writes

As a small girl, I lived in a tiny village near Bury St Edmunds and like many girls my age, I joined the local Brownie pack.

In 1977, at the age of 10, I was one of the oldest Brownies and the Sixer of the Gnomes Group.

On 11 July 1977, The Queen visited Ipswich during her Silver Jubilee.

I was very fortunate to be chosen to join groups of other local Brownies, Guides, Cubs, Scouts and Rangers to carry our pack's Pennant Flag on the Cornhill at Ipswich, which I felt was a great honour.

It was an early start with a train journey to Ipswich, which in itself was an adventure as we rarely went on a train. I can remember great excitement as we waited on the day for The Queen to do a walkabout and meet the crowds.

Our Brown Owl had brought sandwiches, snacks and drinks for us all as it was such a long wait.

I can recall the Pennant Flag was very heavy and it seemed like an eternity waiting to see her arrive. I don't think I had ever seen so many people and everybody was cheering and waving flags or carrying flowers.

It was incredibly exciting as a small girl watching The Queen walk along the crowds, chatting to lots of different people.

I can recall it being a magical experience and also gripping the flag pole I was holding so tightly in case I dropped it as she passed by us.

I have never met any other members of the royal family, so this for me, makes it even more special.

So military at Queen's grocer

Val Bridgman writes

I worked at Fortnum &Mason, the London store known as The Queen's Grocers, in the late 1960s.

The store's annual tradition was the important day the Queen visited us in November or December to order her Christmas gifts and groceries.

The day of The Queen's visit was like a military operation. All those to be introduced had to be in position and primed on what to do.

How to bow or curtsy; not to offer a hand unless she first extends hers; touch her hand gently, never squeeze; do not to speak unless spoken to first.

All staff in the departments the Queen was to visit had to sign in at seven in the morning and could not leave their department until told that the Royal visit was over.

There was always a great air of excitement during the week of Her Majesty's visit with a lot more vacuuming, dusting and polishing of silver.

This was fine because the staff took great pride in their work and it became a bit of a competition between departments to be the best.

We had very strict floor managers who expected us to work to this high standard every day.

When the arrival was due, the staff in the lower food hall were primed and ready to provide Her Majesty with the gifts she choose. They were gathered together and sent to the Palace at a later date.

The staff who were not involved in the personal presentation were still eager to see The Queen.

We were allowed to line the presentation room, all suited and booted in clean uniforms, to catch a glimpse of Her Majesty and see what was happening.

The Queen's department visits were very fleeting. She was in



The Queen selects Her Christmas fare

and gone to another floor in about 45 minutes.

But, as it was an annual visit, we knew that there was a chance to catch a glimpse of The Queen the following year, if lucky.

During my time at Fortnum, I was fortunate to be involved in the catering for The Queen's Buckingham Palace Garden Parties, events both exciting and very stressful.

Everything had to be present and correct, no rushing back to the shop for forgotten tea bags.

The buffet was a well-ordered conveyor belt, everyone knew their little job and completed it well before being taken to the back gate of the Palace to prepare and lay tables in the marquee.

Cups and saucers had all the handles facing right, and all the canapés were on silver trays in military lines.

I was fortunate to meet Her Majesty's Lady-in-Waiting when she entered the marquee to thank us for our hard work.

She told us where to stand to see The Queen as she came down the steps towards the waiting guests and to be introduced to the VIPs.

We all had a good uninterrupted view of our Gracious Queen, beautifully dressed in a cornflower shade of blue .

And at the Buckingham Palace Garden Parties

Named in tribute to Princess

Christine **Elizabeth** Fenn writes

My second Christian name, Elizabeth, is a tribute to Princess Elizabeth, the future Queen.

I was born in Ipswich in 1950 when George VI was on the throne.

When I was not yet three years old my mother took me to join the Coronation crowds on London streets to watch The Queen pass by.

My mother got extremely wet in the heavy downpours. I am not sure about me and I do not remember the day, but my mother felt very happy that she - with me - could take a small part in the historic occasion.

I was near to The Queen in July 1961 when she came to Ipswich, the first reigning Monarch to do so for four centuries. Her main reason was to open the new Civic College in the Rope Walk, now the site of Suffolk New College.

She toured the town in a limousine before arriving at Portman Road football ground, where she was driven around the stadium in an open Land Rover.

I was one of the children from all the town schools selected to attend. My group was in the final year of primary school.

The Queen's cavalcade slowly passed, and we all tried to get a good view. She was wearing a bright outfit and hat as she stood in the vehicle waving to everyone and beaming brightly. Even though we only saw her for a short while I still remember the day well.

Malcom Fenn also saw The Queen. He writes:

I was 13 and attending school near Tower Ramparts. The whole school saw The Queen at Portman Road. I sat in the old wooden stand on the East side of the pitch. When she was driven towards us we clapped and waved flags.

Head's school report





Sean Cornish on happy and sad days at Capel St Mary CEVC Primary School



The death of Queen Elizabeth II was greeted with great sadness by the children at the school. All of the children, apart from those new in reception had taken part in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

Each Unit prepared a presentation for the rest of the school to enjoy which was shared during an assembly. Children in EYFS designed and made a flower garden which had pride of place in our entrance.

In the rest of the school the children studied different decades of The Queen's reign. They looked at the key events in each decade and examined how people dressed and the things that they did. This was very much enjoyed by all of the children.

In the afternoon we held a traditional street party on the playground. The children were served cakes and biscuits that they had baked themselves. There was a display of May Pole dancing as well as groups of children sharing other dances from the various decades of the Queen's reign. The afternoon culminated in a Hat / Crown competition with winners from each Unit.

The school also participated in the display at the Community Centre in the village. Work the children had produced during our Jubilee Celebration week was shared with the whole community. Time lines of the Queen's life, postage stamps and various other things were shared.

After the Queen's death we held an act of Collective Worship on Friday 9th September where we gave thanks for the Queen's long reign and thought of her family and their sadness at this difficult time.

Above are some pictures which show the events of our Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

My father shouted to Queen

Embarrassed Brian Rogerson writes

My father, mother with my sister and I, both of us small children, were on holiday in Jersey in August 1957 at the same time as The Queen and Prince Philip. They were there for the Jersey Battle of Flowers, an annual carnival.

The Queen and Duke were presented with a Jersey cow named Beauchamp Oxford Lady at the Royal Jersey Horticultural Show before moving on to an old people's home, Victoria Cottage Homes, which is where we came across Her Majesty.

Circulating, The Queen talked to Diamond Wedding couples. As she approached and smiled at one old man with beard, he became so overcome with excitement that he was wobbling badly. The Duke helped him to sit back down in his chair.

The Royal entourage left the Cottage Homes along the crowded road bedecked with flowers and in an open-top car. As they passed by, my father - a tall man with a very loud voice - embarrassed us all by yelling out loudly "over here".

It had the desired effect as both The Queen and Prince Philip looked over to where we were standing and waved and smiled.

The excitement of seeing The Queen and Prince Philip soon evaporated in an array of picnics on the beach, ice creams, wandering over German gun emplacements, never-ending flower displays and uneasy anticipation of the return flight home to Newcastle.

But I have never forgotten the excitement and embarrassment of my close sight of The Queen.

What a lot of different clothes at the Garden Party

John and Kathy Whittaker had a moment very close to The Queen as she passed by at their Buckingham Palace Garden Party. The invitation, though the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, was for John Whittaker's work as a trustee of Acorn Village, Manningtree, which gives year-long care to adults with learning difficulties.

The garden party was a day of surprises, interests and thoughts. The Palace is surprisingly bigger than it seems from outside, the garden is huge and can host 3,000 people with space to spare.

The different clothes worn by others was fascinating: men in formal morning dress suits, military and other uniforms and lounge suits. Women in day dresses with hats or fascinators or some in uniform. Men and women in a variety of national dress. There were people in formal groups, some with badges, informal groups and couples by themselves. The Whittakers said they they had for a time felt quite alone but the day was interesting and entertaining. It was a lovely afternoon and they were honoured to be there.

Silver Jubilee tea for 700 children stretching on for a quarter mile









Keepsakes: For all the children, a Silver Jubilee Royal mug, a Silver Jubilee Party invitation, a Silver Jubilee Royal embossed paper plate and (not shown) a Silver Jubilee paper mug

The Queen and my generation shared childhood

As with others of my generation, Queen Elizabeth has been in my life since we were both children.

When her father, King George VI, was crowned in 1937, the Little Princesses, Elizabeth Alexandra Mary, was 11, Princess Margaret Rose, was seven and I was four.

There were many reports in newspapers and in cinema newsreels of Princess Elizabeth joining the Army in 1945 and of her marriage to Prince Philip in 1947.

In 1949, I was in the local Sea Cadets on parade when the royal couple visited Mansfield. We had a clear view of Princess Elizabeth and were inspected by Prince Philip.

In Coronation year, 1953, I was a 20-year-old weekly newspaper reporter covering great celebrations across two towns and half-a-dozen villages.

From 1968 to 1986, I was a Parliamentary reporter. I saw and heard several times in the House of Lords The Queen's speech at the State Opening of Parliament.

Just before and throughout 2002, I was the interregnum Head of Press for the Lord Major and Corporation of the City of London.



1937-2022
David Thompson reports

As such, I had some preparatory duties before a Golden Jubilee lunch served to Her Majesty and distinguished guests in the Guildhall.

On the day, I was ensuring that photographers working for publication at home and across the world were where they should be, and where they shouldn't be, when photographing The Queen.

The best was still to come. I had been within a few yards of The Queen at the Guildhall. In 2014, The Queen, as Patron, and Prince Philip joined the celebrations of 150 years of the Journalists' Charity.

They chatted with charity officers and supporters and there was a formal presentation.

Those of us who were not to be presented were invited to stand immediately behind those those in line who were to be presented.

I was one of them. It honoured me more than enough to be so close to Her Majesty.

Celebration month for Her Majesty's 90th Birthday



Singing, exhibition, signing Book for Queen

Celebrations by the Parish Council, village organisations, groups and individuals were throughout the village for Her Majesty's 90th Birthday. They were spread over a month.

Seven hundred residents, at that time a record number, watched as the then Parish Council Chair, Les Bryant, invited South Suffolk MP, James Cartlidge, to perform the lighting ceremony.

Orchard Players sang, there was an exhibition, food and the signing of the book for The Queen. Her response was warming.

I lit the Beacon for the 'people of this proud village'

South Suffolk MP James Cartlidge writes

I was so pleased to learn of this special edition of the *Capel Reporter*, dedicated to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, a truly great Monarch. Having had the honour to light Capel St Mary's Beacon to mark the Queen's 90th in 2016, I was further delighted to be asked to contribute a short note of my own – not least to put on my record my thanks to the people of this proud village for making this special record of remembrance.

The most common question I am asked when visiting primary schools is 'have you ever met the Queen'? I never had that privilege, though I saw her from afar at the Buckingham Palace Garden Party, attending after I was first elected in 2015.

So, my most powerful memories come from those extraordinary days of national mourning: being in the Commons as rumours started to spread of Operation London Bridge; particularly seeing the furrowed brows on the faces of Ministers aware of the true situation; attending Her Late Majesty's Lying in State and hearing the address by our new King to both Houses of Parliament.

Whilst having never met the Queen, I did use the Commons debate on tributes to her on 9th September to confess to having once spilt red wine on one of her carpets – hurriedly covered up with a nearby Ming vase - whilst working as a kitchen porter at her Buckingham Palace staff Christmas party in the early 1990s. I expressed my loyalty to King Charles III - beseeching him to be "merciful" and resist the temptation to put an invoice for cleaning costs in the post!

I concluded: "I want to express the great privilege I feel to have lived in the reign of Queen Elizabeth II and the great fortune I feel that my four children lived as Elizabethans".

The quiz with 90 questions and £90 prize

During the month, there were many activities throughout the village. A Church Service of Thanksgiving, the book to sign for The Queen was taken round also visiting the churches and school, village artists painted portraits of he Queen for exhibition.The events demonstrated the admiration the village had - and still has - for Her Majesty.

The final event, on Sunday, June 12, was a 90-question quiz on The Life of The Queen from birth until now with a prize of £90.

This attracted a packed audience, presided over by Parish Council Chair, Chris Matthews. The drawing and presentation of the £90 was by East Anglian Daily Times columnist, Lynne Mortimer.

Crowd of 700 enjoyed the party atmosphere



Mugs for children





Mugs for children



Huge turnout of the hungry for the BBQ feast at Capel St Mary Community Centre



Church Service at the War Memorial Monument

No need for words: Photographs tell of how our village celebrated the 70 years reign of Queen Elizabeth II



Concert by the Old Fifties Brass Band



Flower display… and much, much more

Capel Reporter will be bound and sent to Suffolk Archives as a contribution to writing Tomorrow's History Today

The Archive team writes

Suffolk Archives collections are full of rich and invaluable material spanning more than 900 years of county history.

Many documents in our everyday lives are of fleeting interest whereas an archive is a record of ongoing and permanent value for our society.

We take great pride and care in looking after treasures of the past for our audiences now and in the future.

We have splendid and beautiful material many centuries old, and we also collect material created now, which is just as worthy of preservation.

It can be difficult to know what to collect when so much is happening daily. Major event - the 2012 Olympics or the death of Queen Elizabeth II - are obvious contemporary collecting.

But what of everyday experiences of people and communities around us? What will be historically significant in the future?

Would contemporary collections broaden the archives and help bring it up to date? Would they help make connections with new audiences? Would they help to give a voice to more diverse people and communities?

All important questions that help archivists decide how to future-proof collections for the as-yet-unknown .

It is important to collect material that reflects the communities they exist within.

Would contemporary collections broaden the archives and help bring it up to date? Would they help make connections with new audiences? Would they help to give a voice to more diverse people and communities?

All important questions that help archivists decide how to future-proof collections for the as-yet-unknown.

It is important to collect material that reflects the communities they exist within.

Perhaps you have kept some documents in recent years that reflect the community around you, or tell of changes to the society in which you live?

Why not get in touch with Suffolk Archives to help preserve Tomorrow's History Today?



The Queen questions John Hines at the 1969 Metropolitan Police Horse Show about his progress training Bachelor Gay for Trooping the Colour on Horse Guards Parade

I trained the ceremonial horses for the Queen and Royals to ride



John Hines writes

Between 1961 and 1990, I was a constable in the Metropolitan Mounted Police. Over many years, I trained three horses for The Queen, Prince Philip and Prince Charles to ride on Trooping the Colour.

I did this for 16 years, between 1964 and 1980, spending many hours in the company of the Queen.

Over all those years, The Queen would ride side-saddle every day for the six weeks leading to the Trooping, I would be there and had many talks with her and at other events..

In 1967, the magnificent, 18.2 hands high horse, Bachelor Gay, was given to The Queen. She gave the horse to the Metropolitan Police to be trained for Prince Philip to ride on at a Trooping ceremony. I took Bachelor Gay over and trained him.

In 1969, the Queen asked me if Bachelor Gay was ready for Prince Philip to ride on at that year's Trooping. I replied that I would have a better idea if I could take him on one of the two dress rehearsals. The Queen said that I was to take Bachelor Gay on the second dress rehearsal. I would be representing Prince Philip. Lord Louis Mountbatten would be representing The Queen. I rode to the Royal Mews and had Prince Philip's saddle and head kit placed on Bachelor Gay. I entered the Palace and met Lord Louis and we rode together in front of the Guards to Horseguards Parade. I am the only police officer who has ever ridden on the Trooping.

On the Monday, I informed the Queen that Bachelor Gay was ready and on the following Saturday, Prince Philip rode him on his first trooping and a further 11 Troopings.

Royal Ascot was the week after the Trooping and The Queen always wanted the police horses to be stabled at the Royal Mews Windsor Castle, for her house guests to ride prior to the racing each day.

It was a proud moment for me on one occasion, as The Queen decided to ride Bachelor Gay around the racecourse with her other guests in the annual Royal race.

On another occasion at Windsor when Prince Philip changed his mind, the Queen invited me to ride with her and a young Prince Andrew, who was on a lead rein, around Windsor Home Park. It was a wonderful experience for me.

***John, who has lived in Capel, is the middle of three generations serving The Queen.**

His father, Frederick, and son, Capel resident David, have been police protection officers.

OUR Coronation celebration needs YOU!

The Coronation of King Charles, with The Queen Consort Camilla being crowned alongside him, is on 6 May next year.

It leaves very little time to plan Capel's weekend of Coronation celebrations.

The Parish Council is establishing a Coronation working party of councillors, village organisation members and other enthusiasts.

There will be a great deal to do to make sure that the celebrations are a huge success.

All ideas are welcome for consideration. Watching together the Coronation on a huge screen in the Community Centre?

A church service at the War Memorial Monument? The lighting of a Beacon?

Coronation mugs for all the children? A street party like the one for the Silver Jubilee, see Page16?

Parades? Bands? A concert? An exhibition of the Life of the King? A quiz?

More ideas? Please put them forward. And please put yourself forward.

Contact the Parish Office, 27a The Street, Telephone 01473 314103, or e-mail: capel.parishclerk @btconnect.com

DECEMBER 2022 FREE TO ALL RESIDENTS

Capel St Mary Parish Council publication



Capel REPORTER

King Charles: I will serve as The Queen did



Queen Elizabeth's life was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in her passing.

That promise of life long service I renew to you all today. In 1947 on her 21st Birthday she pledged in a broadcast from Cape Town to the Commonwealth to dedicate her life whether it be short or long to the Service of her Peoples.

That was more than a promise: It was a profound personal commitment which defined her whole life, I have been brought up to cherish a sense of duty to others and to hold in the greatest respect the precious traditions and freedoms and responsibilities of our unique history and our system of Parliamentary Government, as the Queen herself did with unswerving devotion.

I too now solemnly pledge myself throughout the remaining time God grants me to uphold the constitutional principles at the heart of our nation.

And wherever you may live in the United Kingdom or in the Realms and Territories across the world! and whatever your background or beliefs I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty respect and love as I have throughout my Life.

The Coronation is getting closer. So how could we celebrate? Turn to page 19.

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